

GT 1/10/93

Amendment 2 won't help the economy

On this, everyone can agree: Amendment 2 has stirred the citizenry, in Colorado and elsewhere. Groups on both sides of the issue seem to organize weekly. It makes for lively news, but it's not doing much for the economy.

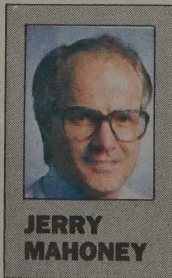
Because of the amendment, Colorado Springs has lost meetings and conventions. The portrayal of Colorado as the "hate state" has damaged its image of tolerance.

The stakes in this battle increased substantially when it became a national issue. The boycotts and threats of economic punishment have put pressure on Colorado for Family Values and its supporters to export the amendment to other states, so that Colorado is not left twisting in the wind. There reportedly are movements in about seven states to pass similar measures.

When a national media giant like the New York Times condemns Colorado in an editorial and backs the boycott, it's only partially aimed at Colorado. It's also a warning to other states not to follow Colorado's lead.

It is probably true that two months ago, many states would have approved similar measures. But it's less likely now, because of the boycotts and people like Bill Ziff.

Ziff, owner of computer-publishing giant Ziff-Davis Communications, said Amendment 2 has hurt Denver's chances of becoming the company's new headquarters, with more than 2,000 employees. Ziff is not certain that his \$600 million company is moving from New York at all, but



**JERRY
MAHONEY**

if it does, Denver or Salt Lake City is a likely site. Knowing all that, would the people of Utah follow Colorado's lead on the gay rights issue?

The Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce is responding to a growing number of questions and complaints about Amendment 2 from

Colorado and across the country, said John Fowler, chamber president.

The chamber's message is that Colorado is "a tolerant, caring place to live." Its board has affirmed its belief in diversity.

"It mostly has to do with cultural and ethnic diversity," said Fowler. "In its broadest sense, diversity is important in the community and the work force. By implication (the board's position) refers to sexual preference," he said.

The Greater Colorado Springs Economic Development Corp., whose job is to bring in new employers, has been told by small companies that Amendment 2 makes this city more attractive. A big company looking at Colorado Springs told EDC that it forbids discrimination for any reason in the workplace, but doesn't expect that stance to be legislated.

Some employers are not so sanguine about Amendment 2.

Apple Computer Inc. and Digital Equipment Corp. are worried that the amendment and its fallout will hurt morale and their ability to recruit employees.

"It's important that our employees are safe, that they are empowered to be everything they want to be and that they feel good about the place they live," said Digital spokesman Jack Kellogg. "In the past two years, we've had a few (gay) employees move from the community because of harassment in public."

Amendment 2, he said, is "a discriminatory piece of constitutional law that has singled out one element of society, and said, 'You do not have the right to ask for discrimination protection.'"

Kellogg and Fowler hope that something comes of the discussion of a compromise ballot issue on Amendment 2. The compromise would prohibit things like hiring quotas for gays, while assuring them that behavior unrelated to work would not be grounds for firing them.

The broader concern is the city's economy. It's growing, but it is threatened with military cuts over the next few years. It doesn't need more obstacles.

"I would hope there would be room for compromise down the road," Fowler said. "We certainly have created for ourselves a significant controversy that could impact the economy."

Jerry Mahoney is Gazette Telegraph business editor.

er and meeting, 5:30 p.m., Antlers Dou-
Cascade Ave. Speaker: Ray Deeny, a partner
erman & Howard, specializing in employment
al legal update. Cost: for meeting only is \$10
for non-members; for dinner is \$18 for mem-
bers. For reservations call Carolyn Padilla,
Monday.

ees: Meeting, 7 p.m. 2345 Academy Place
and fourth Thursday of each month. For
Mike Krebill, 593-7300.

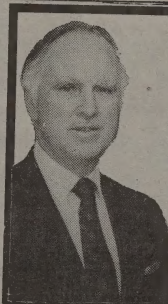
Unity Services, Holy Apostles Catholic
ery: Job Network will hold a free informational
m for people looking for a job, 7 p.m. Holy
1925 N. Carefree Circle. Speaker: Marilyn
Franciscan Family Wellness Center. Topic:
Managing Family Stress During Unemployment
and Referral Advice." For reservations call
6-2345.

ly breakfast meeting, 7 a.m. Date Bar, 24 E.
178.

tion of Business and Professional Women,
Chapter: State mid-year board meeting and
e, Friday through Sunday. Friday, 6:30 p.m.
networking reception. Saturday, 7:30 a.m.
conference; Sunday, workshops, 7:30 a.m.
and topics: Billie Hiller on the United Nations
elimination of all forms of discrimination
Hixon on the National ERA; Mary Dambman
ski on what you can do with a letter writing
ing; and Stephanie Yukawa on women and
n deadline is Jan. 11. Cost: registration fee
s \$20, luncheon \$10 and dinner \$20. Non-
islative conference only, including luncheon,
tion and reservations call Sharon Cantrell-

's Personnel Women: Monthly meeting,
Le Baron Hotel, 314 W. Bijou St. Speaker:
tiveness Associates. Topic: "Building Effect-
ively Managing Conflict." Cost: \$9 for
nonmembers. For reservations call Mary
y noon Jan. 15.

(719) 471-6505



ED BIRCHAM

SAYS:

**COPIER TIP
OF THE WEEK:**

Keep the money in
your community!
**PURCHASE COPIERS
AND FAX EQUIPMENT
FROM...**

**BIRCHAM'S
OFFICE PRODUCTS**

**630-8600
3004 N. NEVADA
(Corner Fillmore & Nevada)**

Price 100%

*GTNsSM and a prospectus describing this offering and its risks
are available from the undersigned at (719) 636-5211.*

Kemper Securities, Inc. 102 South Tejon St. • Suite 1200
Colorado Springs, CO 80903

*GTNs and General Term Notes are service marks of J.W. Korth & Company
Moody's and Standard & Poors respectively

DENVER TECHNICAL COLLEGE

NOW OFFERING CUSTOMIZED TRAINING IN:

- Autocad
- C++
- Electronics
- Word Perfect 5.1

STARTING:
January 29
January 29
January 30
January 22

CALL TODAY FOR MORE INFORMATION

632-3000